

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (CAG)
Minutes of March 10, 2004 (Draft)

Minutes by Dorothy Shoemaker

Present at meeting:

Neighborhood Associations

Robin Plance (b) (6) St. Johns
Chair, Administrative committee coordinator

Environment

Dorothy Shoemaker (b) (6) Sierra Club
Evaluation committee coordinator, Board Secretary

Rhett Lawrence rhett@ospirg.org OSPIRG
Travis Williams travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org Willamette Riverkeeper

Health

Jane Haley-Harris jane@oregon-health.org OCEH

Recreation:

Bill Barrett (b) (6) Waterfront Org. of Oregon

At-Large

Jim Robison (b) (6)

Jackie Calder (b) (6)

Excused Absences:

Neighborhood Associations:

Larry Talbert (b) (6) Hi Noon
Cathy Crawford (b) (6) University Park
Peter Laughingwolf (b) (6) Cathedral Park

Business

Rob DeGraff (b) (6)
Steve Gunther (b) (6) Progressive Products and Services

Recreation:

Raquel Coyote (b) (6) Citizen

At-Large:

Joe Keating (b) (6) Citizen,
Education and Outreach coordinator

Other Participants:

Sue Safford Port of Portland saffos@portptld.com
Amanda Guay ODHS Amanda.m.guay@state.or.us
Fenix Grange DEQ grange.fenix@deq.state.or.us
Barbara Smith LWG Barbara@harrisandsmith.com
Judy Smith EPA smithjudy@epa.gov

(b) (6)		(b) (6)
Kim Estep	OSPIRG	(b) (6)
Sara Gardner	City of Portland	sarag@bes.ci.portland.or.us
(b) (6)		(b) (6)
(b) (5)		(b) (6)
Lila Wiclham	M.C.Health Dept.	lila.a.wiclham@co.multnomah.or.us
Dave Stone	ODHS	dave.stone@state.or.us
Chip Humphrey	EPA	humphrey.chip@epa.gov

The meeting was brought to order at 6:15 PM by Robin Plance, Chair of the CAG. We met in the usual room. Next meeting we'll be in a different room.

LOCATION OF NEXT CAG MEETING: 827 NE Oregon, across from usual location. (DHS offices)

Introductions

Noone brought copies of the February minutes, so a vote was postponed to the April meeting.

Joe and Raquel were excused from tonight's meeting.

Robin brought questionnaires for us to fill out with our suggestions for the brochure.

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Robin expressed the opinion that the CAG bylaws should include a section on grievances.

The retreat will be at Raquel's apartment. She will supply the correct address before the event. We will provide pastry and coffee in the morning, and lunch. Travis will not be able to attend. Robin will email a draft agenda for the retreat.

Robin will write a letter from the CAG to the non-LWG PRPs.

The FSP is due March 22nd.

The Work Plan is in the final stage of implementing EPA's recommendations to the LWG.

"Removal" is the EPA term for "hotspot cleanup".

Dorothy announced that she had posted the non-LWG PRP's contact names and addresses. Susan Safford expressed concern that the Port would receive letters, but Dorothy explained that she only posted the addresses of those PRPs that have not agreed to the cleanup. Dorothy acknowledged the Port's cooperation and participation in the cleanup.

Jane reported on her conversation about dioxins and furans. She now feels it is not an issue for us. Sampling depth is still an issue to her. She'll talk to Sean Seldrake and Chip Humphrey again to clear up her concerns.

Mandy announced our next meeting location. The ODHS is letting us use their conference room.

Rhett announced that the Portland City Council approved a resolution supporting "polluter pays", the federal tax on polluting petroleum and chemical industry that pays for cleanups when companies don't step forward and lawsuits don't work. Robin said he gave a press conference asking the City Council to vote in favor of the resolution. OSPIRG, Willamette Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club, and the National Environmental Trust have been lobbying for the polluter pays bill.

Sue Safford brought hard copies of the Port announcement, and Cds of the revised Work Plan.

WRK has a grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund to survey fishermen along the Willamette. Travis said they will ask how the fish is prepared, and where it is caught.

Travis offered to take us on a boat tour. The CAG membership expressed interest. April 25 is likely.

Fenix will put us on the list for wastewater permits notices. Travis commented on the current decision. He pointed out that the CAG doesn't have time and resources to comment on everything like this, and we should avoid peripheral issues.

The modeling presentation by Regina and Vinh is moved to April. The River Renaissance presentation will be condensed to 20 minutes.

MOTION: Jane nominated Bill McCauley to the CAG. Jim seconded. Approved unanimously.

(b) (6) is a retired longshoreman and friend of (b) (6). He is familiar with the waterfront and concerned about the environment.

Jane was concerned that Bill might make the Port uncomfortable, but Sue reassured her.

Raquel will bring refreshments in April. Dorothy sent out a list of who should bring refreshments to each meeting for the year, but she will send it out again.

Portland Harbor 201: Oregon Dept. of Health

Dave Stone says the data sets from the sampling the DHS had done are not available yet. There are quality issues, and analysis can be "messy", Dave explained, so they're taking their time. They will be done by this fishing season.

The LWG studied resident species, such as smallmouth bass, black crappie, crayfish, common carp, and bullhead catfish. The DHS are studying lamprey, salmon, and sturgeon, partly because the CAG thought it was important.

Dave says that the primary contaminant of concern may change. The fish he's been studying are low in mercury, but PCBs are a big problem. Mercury is still high in fish in the mid-Willamette, but not in the Portland Harbor. The fish here were also low in arsenic.

PCBs were sold as Aroclors, such as Aroclor 1254 and 1260. Congeners are all the possible chemical variations within the PCB family. Congener data is more accurate and useful, but more expensive to get.

PCBs are broken down by carcinogenic/non-carcinogenic. They are like dioxins.

Bass are concentrating PCBs and mercury. The sturgeon data is not available yet. The salmon are not concentrating mercury or PCBs. No lamprey data has been analyzed yet.

SHINE is writing a risk assessment. They will do outreach to spread the word about preparing fish correctly and issue fish advisories. Dave will write health recommendations for different categories of fish consumers, tailored to the types of fish they eat.

Jane will pass on contacts from her outreach to the Russian community.

The LWG, EPA, tribes, and other interested parties are debating whether the sturgeon are anadromous. A USGS unpublished study says they're resident 8 months out of each year. Brian Cunningham from the Tribes is coming to talk in May.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 PM.